

GRANTS FOR LOCAL STEM  
EDUCATION**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 5, 2011*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) and California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), who have been selected as recipients of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM and Articulation Programs Grant.

This highly competitive award will give each school approximately \$1,200,000 in funding for the next five years and will help them to develop and expand their capacity to serve Hispanic and other low-income students.

I believe STEM education is fundamental to prepare our children for jobs in a more technically-oriented economy.

This is vital for our nation's economic security, and I am proud to have supported legislation that made this grant opportunity possible.

As a longtime advocate of STEM education, I am thrilled to see that students in my district, especially those most in need, will have the opportunity to excel in mathematics and the sciences.

This will make way for a competitive workforce that will increase minority participation in the STEM fields and lay the groundwork for a nation filled with educated and diverse individuals.

I congratulate Rancho Santiago Community College District and California State University, Fullerton for receiving such impressive grants.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 5, 2011*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the war in Afghanistan will mark its 10 year anniversary this coming Friday. After 10 years, it is clear money is being wasted on military spending and wars that aren't making us safer, and are doing nothing for ordinary people in Afghanistan and Pakistan and beyond. It's working people in Michigan, and throughout the rest of the country, who understand that—but unfortunately not enough of my colleagues in Congress.

Sometimes it's only outside of Washington, DC, that the fundamental common sense of Americans shows up. This year the National Conference of Mayors passed a powerful resolution calling on the U.S. government to end the war in Afghanistan and to "bring the war money home." It was the first time since the height of the Vietnam War, in 1971, that the Mayors took a clear anti-war position. The mayors understand that the money is there, but it's being diverted—away from jobs, away from the crucial investments in people that keep our workers employed, our children healthy, and our elders safe.

Americans get it—64 percent of Americans already say that the war in Afghanistan is just not worth fighting. But it sure seems like no one is listening. Because just this year, tax-

payers in my congressional district are paying about \$172 million just for our share of the war in Afghanistan. That war isn't doing anything to make us safer—the CIA and all the rest of the intelligence agencies admit there are only 50 or 100 al-Qaeda members even left in Afghanistan. But the numbers of civilian casualties are higher than they've been since this war began ten years ago.

And that 172 million in tax dollars? If we weren't wasting it on a failing war in Afghanistan we could use that money for something that really might help keep us safe—like hiring 3,275 firefighters for a year. We could retrofit 53,807 houses in my district to provide renewable electricity. Those war dollars could cover health care for 22,447 of our brave veterans, so many of whom are coming home from the wars with devastating physical and emotional injuries. Any of those things would keep us safer than wars that create more terrorists with every civilian casualty.

We can't afford to keep fighting counter-productive wars. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and Pakistan are not keeping us safe. It's time to end them; it's time to spend the money we need to bring our troops safely and quickly home. We have too much to rebuild in our cities and across our country, to waste our hard-earned tax dollars. Americans get it. After 10 years, it's time to bring our troops, and our war dollars home.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATROLMAN  
FRANK PAPAIIANNI**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 5, 2011*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Patrolman Frank Papaiani of Edison, New Jersey. On September 16, 1971, Patrolman Papaiani and his partner responded to a silent holdup alarm at a bank located within the Menlo Park Mall in Edison, New Jersey. The gunfire exchanged fatally wounded Patrolman Papaiani and critically wounded his partner. Today, members of the Edison community gather to remember and honor the life of Patrolman Frank Papaiani.

Patrolman Frank Papaiani was a noble officer who faithfully protected and served the local residents, businesses and visitors of Edison, New Jersey. Patrolman Papaiani served with the Edison Division of Police for three years and continued to personify his commitment and dedication to maintaining a safe and peaceful environment. He was survived by his wife Adeline and his three children, Maria, Joann and Frank. Lake Papaiani in Edison, New Jersey is named in honor of the late Patrolman.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in commemorating the life of Patrolman Frank Papaiani and remembering him for his dedication to serve and protect the Township of Edison.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS  
IN THE AMERICAN TAX CODE  
ACT OF 2011**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 5, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Fairness in the American Tax Code Act of 2011."

During these difficult economic times, the wealthiest of Americans should be paying their fair share in taxes. Our nation's unemployment rate is over nine percent and yet, we have the lowest tax rates in decades. Why are we giving tax breaks to Wall Street CEOs and Big Oil Executives, instead of helping the millions of Americans who are struggling.

Thanks to loopholes in the tax code, M. Speaker, the rich keep getting richer. The top one percent of earners are responsible for 20 percent of the nation's annual income, up from 10 percent in 1981. The wealthiest CEOs are paid 400 times what the average worker earns. Only 30 years ago, it was 20 times as much.

Since President Ronald Reagan started lowering tax rates up until President George W. Bush slashed capital gains and income tax rates for the wealthy to their current historic lows, the wealthy have continued to pay less and less in taxes. As I travel throughout my district, into areas where the unemployment rate is over 40 percent, I ask myself where are the jobs and where did all the money go?

Americans in the highest tax bracket are supposed to pay 35 percent of their income in taxes. However, since President Bush slashed the capital gains rate to 15 percent, the top 400 wealthiest Americans, for example, pay only 15 percent in taxes on 80 percent of their income. As the law is currently written, any wealthy American paying the full 35 percent needs to get a new accountant.

My bill simply asks the wealthiest to pay their fair share. It produces a progressive "job creation" surtax for those making more than \$350,000. The surtax increases gradually until those with incomes over \$10 million are paying the same amount on all their income as the legally required statutory rate. M. Speaker, it is time for the wealthiest of Americans to pay their fair share in taxes.

An editorial in the New York Times recently noted: "Critics also claim that raising the capital gains rate would hamstring investment. But economists studying the historical record have concluded that the effect is small, dwarfed by considerations like profit growth. The truth is that despite the current low tax rates, American businesses—small and big—are investing very little. Business surveys show that the main reason is that there are very few customers with money to buy their products."

The wealthiest Americans have rigged the tax system in their favor to the detriment of the middle class. They've changed the rules to their own financial advantage. My bill will make our nation's tax code fairer.

Mr. Speaker, investing in America is the only way that we are going to create jobs. The Fairness in the American Tax Code Act of 2011 ensures the investments made for strictly personal gains are investments that will actually create jobs in America. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me